

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2005

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Due to its size, Boston is a very accessible city, but it may be that its reputation as a walking city relies on the creation of one of America's first historic walking tours, the Freedom Trail.

Sixteen historic sites, all significant in this country's early struggle for freedom, are connected by a 2.5 mile red brick line that not only links one place to another, but the past to the present. What makes the sites on the Freedom Trail so special is that they are not recreations or adaptations. They are real. Each one has a role in the beginning of a nation, each one connects us to the spirit of Boston's early patriots whose hearts were ignited by the spark of liberty.

The Freedom Trail Foundation was established in 1958 and continues to work to preserve this perfect introduction to Colonial Revolutionary Boston, conducting tours with spirited costumed historic characters telling stories about the people, the places, the events and the drama of the American Revolution, and sharing lively anecdotes about the vitality of contemporary Boston.

To travel back to Revolutionary Boston — to understand the people, the events, and ideals of the 18th century — is a great leap for us today. But the sites along the Freedom Trail do speak eloquently of that time. Bostonians and other colonists shared a notion of liberty that was precious and worth fighting for. The Freedom Trail sites include scenes of those critical events in Boston's and the nation's struggles for freedom.

Unless otherwise noted, all photography and content courtesy of the Freedom Trail Foundation.

*Special thanks to Mimi La Camera, President of the Freedom Trail Foundation,
the National Park Service
and to photographer Steve Dunwell.*

Cover: *Bartlett's Illustrated Map of Boston, Places of Amusement & Its Architectural Features, 1871*
Courtesy of the State Library of Massachusetts

Special thanks to Jim Guan of the Office of the Comptroller for his photography and assistance.